

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-4 are pending and stand rejected.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended.

The specification is again objected to for lacking section headings. Applicant again respectfully submits that 37 CFR §1.77(b) discloses a *suggested* format for the arrangement of the disclosure. Applicant respectfully submits that the present disclosure follows the suggested format where applicable. With regard to 37 CFR §1.77(c), which was not cited in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that section headings are suggested but not required, as 37 CFR §1.77(c) clearly states the sections defined in paragraphs (b) (1) through (b) (11) "should" be preceded by a section heading.

Applicant respectfully declines at this time to amend the disclosure to include same.

The examiner has objected to the drawings in that the handwritten labels shown in Figures 2 and 3 are blurry.

Applicant disagrees with the examiner but, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter has provided, in Appendix A, replacement sheets containing annotated and marked-up copies of Figures 2 and 3, which more clearly show the labels in the English language.

Having provided replacement drawings for those objected to, applicant submits that the reason for the objection has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amended drawings and withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Strong (USP no. 5,384,892).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the examiner's rejection of the claims. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of the instant application, applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 4 to more clearly state the invention. More specifically, applicant has amended claims 1 and 4 to state that "the word sub-sequence is evaluated by each of a plurality of different speech models." No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment may be found on at least

page 3, lines 22-28, which state, in part, "[i]f one speech model compared to the other speech models is thematically nearer to a (free formulated) word sub-sequence, such a speech model will assign a higher probability..."

Strong discloses a system and method for speech recognition which determines acoustic features, recognizes words based on a language model and the selection of an appropriate response based on the words recognized. Strong discloses that a vocabulary used is generated by the language model generator from a larger vocabulary so that the "[r]ecognizer will ... search only in the portion of the database (vocabulary) according the language model information." (see col. 4, lines 65-68). Strong further discloses that the language model generator "determines based on the current operating conditions ... sequences of words which are expected to be received by recognizer 220 in order to limit the scope of the vocabulary search." (see col. 5, lines 10-15). This dynamic operation of the language model generating a limited vocabulary is shown in Fig. 3, wherein the language model is generated between time t_1 and t_2 for buffered features received from the feature extraction process. (see col. 6, lines 48-53).

Hence, Strong discloses using a single, reduced vocabulary, speech model based on context to determine word sequences and these models are generated from a larger vocabulary based on the features input.

The Office Action refers to col. 7, line 45-col.8, line 14, for showing that Strong teaches multiple speech models. However, a reading of this section reveals that these models are associated with specific ranges and the inputted context is evaluated using only that model containing the inputted context. More specifically, Strong discloses that "[f]or example, FIG.4 shows a first language model LM1 which comprises each of the words for the digits 'one' through 'nine.'" Therefore, each of the phones which comprises the words 'one,' 'two,' 'three,' etc. are encoded into LM1. In other words, at start state 400, if the word 'one' (phonetically 'wuhn') is detected, then path 401 of LM1 is taken and the language mode LM1 is satisfied at state 410...Similarly, in language mode LM2 shown in FIG. 5, the language model LM2 will start at state 500 and traverse one of the paths 501 through 509 to reach the end state 510. Language model LM2, as shown in

FIG. 5, is similar to LM2 [sic], however it comprises words for the number 'ten' through 'nineteen' and the associated phones which are received from feature extractor 200."

Thus, Strong teaches that the searching of one of the language models and fails to disclose "the word sub-sequence is evaluated by each of a plurality of different speech models," as is recited in the claim.

It is well recognized that to constitute a rejection pursuant to 35 USC §102, i.e., anticipation, all material elements recited in a claim must be found in one unit of prior art. Strong, accordingly, cannot be said to anticipate the invention recited in independent claim 1 because Strong fails to disclose all the elements claimed.

Having shown that Strong fails to disclose all the elements claimed, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to claims 2 and 3, these claims ultimately depend from independent claim 1, which has been shown to be allowable over the cited reference. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

With regard to claim 4, this claim recites subject matter similar to that recited in claim 1 and has been amended in a manner similar to that made to claim 1. Hence, for the remarks made with regard to claim 1, which are reasserted, as if in full, herein, applicant submits that claim 4 is not anticipated by Strong.

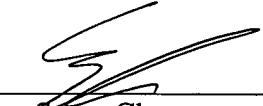
Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

Although the last Office Action was made final, this amendment should be entered. Claims 1 and 4 have each been amended more clearly state the invention. No matter has been added to the claims that would require comparison with the prior art or any further review. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP 714.13, applicant's amendments should only require a cursory review by the examiner. The amendment therefore should be entered without requiring a showing under 37 CFR 1.116(b).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: April 26, 2005

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4/26/05